

Vote for  
Michigan's  
Best 3E

ANSAS

Dave Dye makes his picks. 1U Win a 1V, other prizes. 4U



SPORTS, 11

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

detroitnews.com

Metro Final

# Council to mayor: Resign

Nonbinding  
resolution  
passes 7-1

Kilpatrick rejects  
vote as City Hall  
rift grows

By CHRISTINE MACDONALD  
*The Detroit News*

**DETROIT** — The Detroit City Council, in a dramatic move that highlights the ever-growing divide at City Hall over the handling of the \$8.4 million whistleblower settlement, overwhelmingly passed a resolution Tuesday calling on Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick to resign.

Kilpatrick dismissed the non-binding resolution, passed 7-1 by the City Council, and said he has no intention of resigning. Council President Pro Tem Monica Conyers was the only dissenting vote.

## DIGGING IN FOR FIGHT

**Howes:** Mayor appeals to business leaders in bid to bolster support base. 1C

"It's not a binding resolution ... they spent a whole day on it," Kilpatrick said. "There are more important things."

But council members say it sends a strong message to the mayor of "no-confidence."

The relationship between the council and mayor is expected only to deteriorate. The City Council is pressing for more information on the settlements while Kilpatrick awaits a deci-

Please see Council, Page 7A



Elizabeth Conley / The Detroit News

The council may press for the release of more text messages of Mayor Kilpatrick, who now says they may not be authentic.

# Council

Continued from Page 1A

sion from Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy on whether he'll face criminal charges.

"What I see ahead of us is a period of political stress that won't resolve itself until Jan. 1, 2010," said Councilwoman Sheila Cockrel, referring to the date the mayor's second term expires. "Who knows what will happen until then. It's uncharted waters."

Also Tuesday, the city's ethics board voted unanimously against acting on two complaints against Kilpatrick until Worthy acts.

## Text message hearings loom

The City Council this week is expected to ask a judge to force the city's text messaging service provider, SkyTel, to release thousands of Kilpatrick's text messages that are at the heart of the scandal.

The council also is gearing up for hearings on the matter scheduled for April 8-9. The witness list for the hearings includes Kilpatrick, his ex-chief of staff Christine Beatty, and lawyers who had a hand in crafting the secret deal aimed at shielding the text messages from public disclosure.

William Goodman, the council's attorney, said Tuesday afternoon that four of the nine people the City Council requested appear for the April hearings have said they plan to comply: police whistle-blower attorney Michael Stefani; Kilpatrick's general counsel, Sharon McPhail; and attorneys Sam McCargo and Wilson Copeland, who defended the city from the whistle-blower lawsuits.

Goodman said the others, including Kilpatrick and Beatty, haven't said whether they will appear. Goodman said William Mitchell, Kilpatrick's personal attorney, has declined to come to the hearing, citing attorney-client confidentiality.

When asked what he planned to do, Goodman said he was "studying" the matter.

The council has the power to subpoena witnesses or documents. But by city charter, the council can't remove Kilpatrick unless he is convicted of a felony.

"To call for a sitting mayor to resign is not an easy thing," said Councilman Kwame Kenyatta, who sponsored the resolution. "(But) people want to get past this." Conyers said her "no" vote on



Daniel Mears / The Detroit News

Council President Pro Tem Monica Conyers cited a lack of information in voting "no" on the resolution to ask Kilpatrick to quit.

the resignation resolution wasn't an act of support for the mayor; she said she needed more information before she'd be willing to seek his resignation. "Let's stop playing symbolic games with symbolic resolutions," Conyers said.

Conyers was among three other council members, including Alberta Tinsley-Talabi, JoAnn Watson and Martha Reeves, who joined Kilpatrick on stage at his State of the City speech last week.

Councilwoman Martha Reeves was absent Tuesday due to illness.

## Ruling on charges next week

Worthy is expected to decide next week whether Kilpatrick will be charged with any crime stemming from whistle-blower cases against the city by three ex-Detroit cops.

Documents released by the Wayne Circuit Court earlier this month reveal that Kilpatrick cut a side deal to settle the whistle-blowers suits in exchange for the text messages between him and Beatty.

The text messages contradicted sworn testimony that they did not have an affair or discuss the firing of Deputy Chief Gary Brown. Those details were withheld from the council when they approved the settlement.

On Tuesday, Kilpatrick suggested the text messages may not be authentic.

"There will be a time when we can comment about the texting ... the authenticity of all of it," Kilpatrick said.

"A lot of things on public display are not facts ... are not true."

Kilpatrick met Tuesday with business leaders from Detroit Renaissance at an invitation-only gathering at the Detroit Athletic Club to discuss the region's economic future.

"The mayor and Detroit Renaissance engaged in a constructive and open discussion, the specific nature of which we have agreed would not be disclosed outside the meeting," according to a written statement from Doug Rothwell, president of Detroit Renaissance.

## Resolution lists criticisms

Tuesday's City Council resolution criticizes Kilpatrick for a variety of things, including late financial audits and denying a cover-up of the whistle-blowers deal, saying he has taken "positions so totally flawed both factually and legally that this honorable body remains deeply troubled by Mayor Kilpatrick's inability to discern the truth."

The City Council put off voting on the resolution earlier this month in anticipation of Worthy's decision.

But Kenyatta said a number of factors led to the council's decision to press ahead, including Kilpatrick's speech.

The mayor ended his State of the City address by using the N-word on live television to describe what he said were threats made against him.

## What's ahead

On Friday, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Robert Colombo is expected to hear a motion from the Detroit City Council to join the lawsuit brought by The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press seeking the release of text messages between Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and his former chief of staff.

Next week, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy is expected to announce whether Kilpatrick or others will face criminal charges in the scandal.

The City Council is scheduled to hold hearings April 8-9 on the settlements.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox's called for Kilpatrick to resign over the use of the slur.

Kenyatta said the resignation of New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer — before criminal charges have been levied — could have had an influence in his colleagues' votes.

"There was no longer any argument," Kenyatta said.

Councilwoman Barbara-Rose Collins said her vote was "not an indictment of the mayor so much as a request for the city to get back to business."

"Sometimes the problem becomes more important than the man," Collins said.

Kenyatta said he was surprised by Councilwoman Alberta Tinsley-Talabi's affirmative vote. Tinsley-Talabi, who was unavailable for comment afterward, has been a strong Kilpatrick supporter.

"It sends a strong legislative message that we have no confidence in this mayor," Kenyatta said.

The council chambers were packed Tuesday morning and a long line of people waited outside.

Lorenzo Houston, 57, of Detroit said residents of the city elected Kilpatrick and he should stay as mayor because he has done good things for the city.

"I am standing behind him 100 percent," Houston said.

But Valerie Burris, 48, of Detroit said she doesn't want a mayor in office who she said has lied.

"The mayor has disgraced us," Burris said. "He has lied to the council. You are the voice of the voiceless. Do your job."

You can reach Christine MacDonald at (313) 222-2396 or [cmacdonald@detnews.com](mailto:cmacdonald@detnews.com). Detroit News Staff Writers David Josar and Orlander-Brand Williams contributed to this report.